

## **Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers – Cable Section**

### **2006 Dockets**

#### **2006-C-1 COX COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION FILING (CLOSED)**

On January 12, 2006 Cox Communications, Inc. filed a notification of certain rate adjustments related to analog/digital receivers and other digital and premium offerings. The Division has review authority on the regulated rate concerning analog/digital receivers, with the other rate changes in this filings being for informational purposes only. A public hearing was held on January 31, 2006 and an order approving the equipment increase was issued on February 14, 2006. The approved increase was within the maximum permitted rate specified in the computation of the federal form 1205.

#### **2006-C-2 CATV COMPANY ASSESSMENT REPORTS**

Section 17.7 of the Rules Governing Community Antenna Television Service (Rules) require that cable companies file reports every five years providing evidence that they are in compliance with the Rules. Those reports were submitted, with modifications, by February 28, 2006. A public hearing was held on April 4, 2006 to evaluate the reports. The Cable TV advocacy section indicated that after its review Cox Communications and Full Channel TV were in compliance with the cable rules. An official Division order is pending.

#### **2006-C-3 MANFREDI-TURRISI V SHELDON PUBLIC ACCESS COMPLAINT**

On January 4, 2006 Melissa Manfredi-Turrisi filed a complaint against public access producer, Marilyn Sheldon, alleging invasion of privacy, defamation, libel and slander as a result of the telecast of Ms. Sheldon public access show "Justice". The Cable Section of the DPUC held an informal hearing on the matter on January 31, 2006, at which time each side presented their case. The specifics of the case are contained in an order issued by Associate Administrator of the Cable Section on March 13, 2006, which in essence found that the Cable Section believes that a jury or justice of the appropriate judicial venue could find one or both communications slanderous and/or an invasion of privacy. The verdict would depend upon the presentation of additional evidence that was not presented at the informal hearing. Therefore, the order concludes that Ms. Turrisi should first address her causes of action to the appropriate judicial forum. Upon receipt of a duly-authenticated verdict, judgment or other court order identifying that Ms. Sheldon has committed a slander and/or invasion of privacy, the Cable Section will recommend that the Division take the appropriate action.

On March 16, 2006 Ms. Turissi appealed the informal decision and a formal hearing date of April 28, 2006 was established.

#### 2006-C-4 VERIZON CABLE APPLICATION FOR SERVICE AREA 6

Verizon submitted a cable franchise application to the Division on February 6, 2006 for Service Area 6 which includes the following communities: Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick, West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Exeter and North Kingstown. After initial review, the Advocay Section of the Division submitted supplemental requests for information to Verizon on February 15, 2006. Verizon responded with the additional information on March 16, 2006 and the Division officially docketed the matter on March 21, 2006.

The Division commenced the formal review process with a public advertisement for interveners on March 28, 2006. Those who submitted motions to intervene were: Cox Communications, Full Channel TV, the New England Cable and Telecommunication Association, the Division of Public Utilities Advocacy Section and the Town of Foster. Opposition to the Town of Foster's intervention was filed by Verizon and concerns to the Towns intervention were raised by the Advocacy Section. A hearing on the issue was scheduled for April 27, 2006.